

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2287–S2435*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-one bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 699–719, S. Res. 88–91, and S. Con. Res. 14. **Page S2355**

#### Measures Reported:

S. Res. 89, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, and October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, and October 1, 2008, through February 28, 2009. **Page S2355**

#### Measures Passed:

**Siblings Connection Day:** Committee on Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 86, designating March 1, 2007, as “Siblings Connection Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S2433–34**

**United States Senate Youth Program:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 90, commending students who participated in the United States Senate Youth Program between 1962 and 2007. **Page S2434**

**Read Across America Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 91, designating March 2, 2007, as “Read Across America Day.” **Page S2434**

**Improving America’s Security by Implementing Unfinished Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act:** Senate began consideration of S. 4, to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2292–S2348**

#### Adopted:

Lieberman (for Feinstein) Amendment No. 271 (to Amendment No. 275), to prohibit a foreign country with a visa refusal rate of more than 10 percent or that exceeds the maximum visa overstay rate from participating in the visa waiver program. **Pages S2319–21**

By 58 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 54), Inouye Amendment No. 285 (to Amendment No. 275), to specify the criminal offenses that disqualify an applicant from the receipt of a transportation security card. **Pages S2343–45, S2345–46**

By 94 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 55), DeMint Modified Amendment No. 279 (to Amendment No. 275), to specify the criminal offenses that disqualify an applicant from the receipt of a transportation security card. **Pages S2327–29, S2339–41, S2346**

#### Pending:

Reid Amendment No. 275, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2318–48**

Collins Amendment No. 277 (to Amendment No. 275), to extend the deadline by which State identification documents shall comply with certain minimum standards. **Pages S2321–27, S2329–39, S2341–43**

Bingaman/Domenici Amendment No. 281 (to Amendment No. 275), to provide financial aid to local law enforcement officials along the Nation’s borders. **Pages S2346–48**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2007. **Page S2434**

#### Appointments:

**Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d–276g, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 110th Congress: Senator Crapo. **Page S2433**

**Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h–276k, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 110th Congress: Senator Cornyn. **Page S2433**

**NATO Parliamentary Assembly:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22

U.S.C. 1928a–1928d, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly during the 110th Congress: Senator Smith. **Page S2433**

**British-American Interparliamentary Group:** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group conference during the 110th Congress: Senator Cochran. **Page S2433**

**Messages From the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to certain actions and policies intended to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–8) **Page S2353**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Dabney Langhorne Friedrich, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 31, 2009 (Recess Appointment).

Beryl A. Howell, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011 (Recess Appointment). **Pages S2433, S2434–35**

**Messages from the House:** **Pages S2353–54**

**Messages Referred:** **Page S2354**

**Executive Communications:** **Page S2354**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S2355–57**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S2357–59**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S2352–53**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S2379–S2432**

**Notices of Hearings/Meetings:** **Page S2432**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Pages S2432–33**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S2433**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—55) **Page S2346**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:37 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2007.

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to provide an overview of the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008 for defense-related matters, after receiving testimony from Gordon England, Deputy Secretary, and Tina W. Jonas, Under Secretary (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of Defense; and Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### AMTRAK: 2008

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine Amtrak 2008, after receiving testimony from Joseph H. Boardman, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, and David Tornquist, Assistant Inspector General, Competition and Economic Analysis, both of the Department of Transportation; Alex Kummant, National Railroad Passenger Corporation—Amtrak, and Edward Wytkind, AFL-CIO, both of Washington, D.C.; and Robert Serlin, RIM Services, LLC, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### MINE SAFETY

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine improving mine safety, one year after the Sago and Alma coalmining disasters, after receiving testimony from Richard E. Stickler, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health; John Howard, Director, and Jeffery L. Kohler, Director, Office of Mine Safety and Health, both of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Health and Human Services; J. Davitt McAteer, Wheeling Jesuit University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia; Chris R. Hamilton, West Virginia Coal Association, Charleston; Cecil Roberts, United Mine Workers of America, Fairfax, Virginia; and Bruce Watzman, National Mining Association, Washington, D.C.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

*Committee on Appropriations:* On Monday, February 26, 2007, Committee adopted its rules of procedure and approved for reporting the following subcommittee assignments for the 110th Congress:

*Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies:* Senators Kohl (Chairman), Harkin, Dorgan, Feinstein, Durbin, Johnson, Nelson (NE), Reed, Bennett,